

Claimed are:

1. A stent comprising a flexible, elongate body having a curled proximal portion, a curled distal portion, and a main portion extending between the proximal and distal portions, wherein:
 - A) the main and distal portions together define a channel laterally open throughout at least a part of the channel's length and extending along the main and distal portions without extending along the proximal portion, whereby the channel's proximal end is disposed in the main portion; and
 - B) the proximal portion is curled away from the channel.
2. The stent of claim 1, wherein the channel is laterally closed along at least a part of the channel's length.
3. The stent of claim 1, wherein the channel is laterally closed along at least about 10% of the channel's length.
4. The stent of claim 1, wherein the channel is laterally closed along at least about 25% of the channel's length.
5. The stent of claim 1, further comprising a band placed around the circumference of the body to laterally close no more than about 1 inch of the channel's proximal end.
6. The stent of claim 1, wherein the channel is laterally closed along its proximal end.
7. The stent of claim 6, wherein the channel is laterally closed along less than about 2 inches of its proximal end.

8. The stent of claim 6, wherein the channel is laterally closed along less than about 1 inch of its proximal end.
9. The stent of claim 6, wherein the channel is laterally closed along at least about 0.125 inches, but less than about 1 inch, of its proximal end.
10. The stent of claim 1, wherein the main portion of the body comprises a web and two flanges extending from opposite ends of the web.
11. The stent of claim 10, wherein the two flanges curve toward each other.
12. The stent of claim 10, wherein the two flanges each have lateral edges, and the lateral edges of the respective flanges, in at least one rest position, do not touch each other along the at least one laterally open part of the channel.
13. The stent of claim 10, wherein the channel is defined by a side of the web and lateral portions of the two flanges.
14. The stent of claim 13, wherein the two flanges each have lateral edges, and the lateral edges of the respective flanges, in at least one rest position, do not touch each other along the at least one laterally open part of the channel, leaving a gap therebetween.
15. The stent of claim 14, wherein the width of the gap between the flange edges is less than half of the channel's diameter.
16. The stent of claim 14, wherein the width of the gap between the flange edges is between about one fifth and about one half of the channel's diameter.

17. The stent of claim 14, wherein the width of the gap between the flange edges is between about one fourth and about one third of the channel's diameter.
18. The stent of claim 13, wherein the channel is laterally closed along at least a part of the channel's length.
19. The stent of claim 18, wherein the lateral portions of the two flanges are fused together to close the at least one laterally closed part of the channel.
20. The stent of claim 18, wherein the at least one laterally open part of the channel is defined by an aperture cut in the at least one laterally closed part of the channel.
21. The stent of claim 18, wherein the two flanges each have lateral edges, and the lateral edges of respective flanges are both fused to a bridge material between the lateral edges, to close the at least one laterally closed part of the channel.
22. The stent of claim 18, further comprising a band placed around the circumference of the body to form the at least one laterally closed part of the channel.
23. The stent of claim 22, wherein the band is fused to the flexible elongate body.
24. The stent of claim 18, further comprising a plurality of bands placed around the circumference of the body and fused thereto, each band thereby forming a laterally closed part of the channel.
25. The stent of claim 18, wherein at least a part of the channel in the distal portion is laterally closed.

26. The stent of claim 25, wherein substantially the entire length of the channel in the distal portion is laterally closed.
27. The stent of claim 1, wherein the proximal portion is curled through at least 180 degrees.
28. The stent of claim 1, wherein the proximal portion is curled through at least 270 degrees.
29. The stent of claim 1, wherein the distal portion is curled through at least 270 degrees.
30. The stent of claim 1, wherein the channel is so sized as to accommodate a guidewire having a diameter of 0.038 inches.
31. The stent of claim 1, wherein the main and distal portions together define a second channel separate from the previously mentioned, first channel, the second channel being laterally open throughout at least a part of the second channel's length and extending along the main and distal portions.
32. The stent of claim 31, wherein the proximal portion also defines the second channel.
33. The stent of claim 31, wherein the first channel is larger than the second channel.
34. The stent of claim 31, wherein the main portion of the body comprises a web and two flanges extending from opposite ends of the web, the first channel is defined by a side of the web and lateral portions of the two flanges extending on

the side of the web, and the second channel is defined by an opposite side of the web and lateral portions of the two flanges extending on the opposite side of the web.

35. The stent of claim 34, wherein the web defines a plurality of perforations connecting the first channel and the second channel.
36. The stent of claim 1, so sized as to be deployable in a ureter.
37. The stent of claim 1, so sized as to be deployable in a bile duct.
38. The stent of claim 1, so sized as to be deployable in a pancreatic duct.
39. The stent of claim 1, wherein the end of the proximal portion is tapered.
40. The stent of claim 1, wherein the end of the distal portion is tapered.
41. The stent of claim 1, wherein the end of the distal portion is beveled.
42. The stent of claim 1, wherein the proximal portion defines a hole so sized as to secure a pull string.
43. The stent of claim 42, wherein the hole is positioned within 0.25 inches of the end of the proximal portion.
44. The stent of claim 1, further comprising a band placed around the circumference of the body to laterally close at least a part of the channel's length.
45. The stent of claim 1, wherein:
 - A) the main and distal portions together define a second channel separate from the previously mentioned, first channel, the second channel being laterally open throughout at least a part of the second channel's length and extending along the main and distal portions;

- B) the proximal portion is curled away from the channel through at least 270 degrees; and
 - C) the stent further comprises a band placed around the circumference of the body to form the at least one laterally closed part of the channels.
46. The stent of claim 45, wherein the distal end of the distal portion is beveled.
47. A stent comprising a flexible, elongate body having a curled proximal portion, a curled distal portion, and a main portion extending between the proximal and distal portions, wherein:
- A) the main, distal, and proximal portions together define a channel extending along those portions and being laterally open throughout at least a part of the channel's length;
 - B) the laterally open part of the channel in the main and distal portions defines a lateral gap;
 - C) the laterally open part of the channel in the proximal portion defines a proximal lateral gap wider than the lateral gap; and
 - D) the proximal portion is curled away from the channel.
48. The stent of claim 47, wherein the proximal lateral gap is at least 50% wider than the lateral gap.
49. A stent comprising a flexible, elongate body having a curled proximal portion, a curled distal portion, and a main portion extending between the proximal and distal portions, wherein:
- A) the main and distal portions together define a first channel laterally open throughout at least a part of the channel's length and extending along the

- main and distal portions without extending along the proximal portion,
whereby the first channel's proximal end is disposed in the main portion;
- B) the main and distal portions together define a second channel separate from the first channel, the second channel being laterally open throughout at least a part of the second channel's length and extending along the main and distal portions; and
- C) the proximal portion is curled away from the channel through at least 270 degrees.
50. A stent comprising a flexible, elongate body having a proximal portion, a distal portion, and a main portion extending between the proximal and distal portions, wherein:
- A) the body comprises a web and two flanges extending from opposite ends of the web, the web and flanges extending along the body, the flanges curving toward each other;
- B) the web and flanges together define a first channel and a second, smaller, channel, separate from the first channel;
- C) each channel is laterally open along at least a respective part of that channel's length;
- D) the first channel is laterally closed along at least a part of its length; and
- E) the proximal and distal portions are barbed.
51. The stent of claim 50, wherein at least one of the proximal and distal portions is curled.